

that attendance at Sunday School is continued even during married life in most manufacturing towns. Perhaps it doesn't so often happen in Bradford as in Preston that children, ^{parents} & grand-parents start together for the Sunday School, then betake themselves to their evening classes; but every such school, belonging either to the Church or to Dissenting ^{non} Bodies, has its 'Select Class' for men & women, in each of which it is not unusual to have as many as forty, or even eighty, members. And quite delightful classes there are to work with, those of the young women at any rate, who are full of naive intelligence, teachableness, & desire for the best things.

The congregational singing, again, which forms part of the various Sunday services, is a real delight to people blessed with fine voices & true ear, & who are seldom without some degree of musical training. This they receive from choir practices, in choral classes, perhaps in some degree, as in Counties, through concerts & occasional Oper. going; but where there's a will there's a way, & the people of Bradford have, for centuries, been known in all the country-side as famous singers. Even fifty years ago the choirs of the neighbouring villages could go through the choruses of the Messiah, Elijah, &c. 'without book'; & what is better, many a common

26p32mc39

were admitted to membership, & that they were to protect their own rights. The various crafts formed guilds of their own, so that in fact each craft was under the government of its own leaders & its several guilds. I give Superior Guild & Merchant Guild. In aspects of the Craft-guild was threefold, - to secure good work, to ensure work for all its members, & to exclude too great competition: to attain these ends they required that all work should be submitted to examination & receive the corporation mark, & they limited the no. of master workmen, as well as the number of apprentices which each master might have. So early as Henry II. we readily find guilds of workers in all the principal towns in the town, & the most written down documents testify of curious reminiscences of these ancient guilds is still preserved in the Guild Festival of Preston. This is celebrated with much pomp & festivity every twentieth year - the great feature of the occasion being a procession in which the various crafts are seen in the act of performing their several arts.

In the two or three centuries since the fall of that of Henry II. the worsted manufacture declined, despite the action of the guilds, & some protective measures on the part of the Sovereigns; but in the same proportion, the value of wool as an article of export increased. The long bright wool of Norfolk which was peculiarly fitted for the worsted manufacture was used at home chiefly; we read of little bit being exported thence. It was a great wool-bearing country, while Lincolnshire produced less wool, exported more. From the earliest periods, as we have seen, England has been distinguished for the length & fineness of its staples: the most rich and pure

26p33cme34

Spinners & weavers can read off from musical notation as easily as from a 'print-book'; & certainly not in Exeter Hall or elsewhere would one hear the choruses of the garrisoned Artorias more joyfully rendered than by the Bradford Choral Society. The taste for music is all but universal; everybody sings, & you hear harmonium & pianos in many a farm-house cottage; while the brass bands, the fling of the mills shew as much enterprise as musical talent: certainly of the operatives put themselves under training with such happy results that they perform every week in the public parks in turn with a good military band, before a large & very critical audience. Bradford has capital subscription, & occasional concerts; but it has not a "School of music or Conservatoire, which offers ^{free} musical instruction of a very high order to pupils of both sexes;" a highly valued privilege would such instruction be to people of somewhat musical ability: but this is one of the advantages of state organization which we must be content to want ^{in England} in England. The Bradford mills close at 5.30 P.M., & then the operatives have a long evening spent in pleasure-seeking, or upon personal improvement; ^{in which} many opportunities are put in their way. Elementary instruction is well provided for; besides that, there are evening classes for mathematics, languages, the various sciences, all well-taught & well-attended by working people, who are both able & willing to pay the small fee required. But ^{undoubtedly} ~~probably~~ we have nothing in England to ^{compare} ~~equal~~ with it.

then a famous clothing town, for to make the
Eng. goods with any other kinds.

Even exported in its raw state, this luxurious wool
was a principal source of revenue to the exchequer,
but what if the Eng. shd learn to weave it into beautiful
"Draperies" like those of Flanders? Her wool & lace
sources not only national but of personal
income, for the Eng. kings of the past were great
suepparmer.

Must we have a long history showing how our
Plantagenet & Tudor sovereigns would then
strangers to their shores, with crafty hand men,
scattered them widely amongst the Eng. towns, but
they shd be each other up to a home culture sh.
shd move them to pack up bag & baggage & together
return to their native shores. how they fostered them
by means of protective statutes & indulged them with

any privileges. So that it came to pass that from
natural & comp. or tyrannical oppression the Flemings
fled hither as to a fostering home.

Thus, in Henry 5 we have a great inundation
which drove them afield. ^{Some} settled
at the village of woolstead in Norfolk. There they set
up their looms & made stuffs of such excellence
that in time they gave name to a great &
peculiarly Eng. manufacture. Now Flemish
weavers followed in the reign of Stephen, & in his
& the following reigns we find the weavers of
Old London & Norwich paying into the Exchequer for
the privileges of their several guilds.

These craft guilds ^{formed} a peculiar feature in the
municipal life of the Med. Age. The necessity that in
town as well as in country districts some system of mutual
responsibility should exist, early gave rise to guilds
frith-guilds, the members of wh. were responsible
for one another. Cared for each other's poor, held fast
together as members of a family. But these ancient guilds became
exclusive & somewhat tyrannical; only trades

ibp 350me34

with the "École des Lettres et des Sciences" of
Rantes, which provides free courses of instruction
of a high order throughout nine months of the
year; literature, science, art, chemistry,
botany, physics, mathematics, history, and
architecture, are taught by first-rate lecturers
every evening in the week. ^{These lectures are}
^{in classes, under the management of English and}
are ⁱⁿ as efficiently taught in Bradford as in
other English towns; & the fact that a low
fee is charged is an advantage rather than
otherwise, for both the artisans & the members
of the professional & mercantile classes are
far better ^{paid} in England than in France. But
English provincial towns have not, except in
cases as they take advantage of the arrangement
proposed by the Universities, the benefit of
instruction at the hands of ^{University} first-rate men.
Nothing like the beautiful lucidity &
power shown by a French Professor, say
of History or Literature, ~~would be~~ ^{is} a treat to
English ears. But this is a loss to the
educated rather than to the labouring classes.
For the latter, nothing could be so really helpful
as the painstaking, thorough instruction ^{provided}.

In the matter of general reading, the
working-people of Bradford are certainly not
behind those of Rantes: - "It would be
difficult to enter the Public Library at Rantes
without finding workmen in it; some
reading for profit, others for pleasure." I have
sometimes counted half a dozen workmen, even
on a week day, in the Rantes reading-room,
which is open all the year round to our people &
foreigners, without any kind of form or ceremony.
Yon

This industry. the trade in wool has been for
seventeen centuries

until a date so recent that it is almost within

the memory of man. the making of worsted
stuffs & woollens, & the trade in wool have been
the main sources of our national wealth: & that
over which Britain became a nation; the
Romans had sundry clothing towns in the island
Not Wincchester, cloth so much choicer enough
for the ^{emperors} ^{we make from} wool spun into thread as fine
says a contemporary historian, as to be comparable
to a spider's web.

When the Conqueror came, he found the Saxons wearing rough
clothes for home use, ^{very coarse} ^{but} their wool the envy of Europe
for its fineness, brightness & length of staple, to be made into fine

stuffs by the Flemings. These people were held to be born
with a gift for making delicate fabrics. They were the
clothiers of Europe, & no other nation thought of
competing with them. But William, with his
usual judgment, conceived that they might
teach his new subjects: he brought forth a colony
of Flemings & planted them in various towns
chiefly in Norwich where they established the trade
wh. made th. for centuries one of the chief towns in
my kingdom.

These early settlers formed a sort of nucleus to
wh. gathered from time to time fresh colonies of
Flem. weavers. Our kings were ever anxious
patrons to these skilful strangers. At that day
England & Spain grew the wool where was
clothed the rest of Europe; ^{with} the fine Spanish
wool. the merino breed was confessedly
derived from sheep of Eng. breed. a royal
gift in the reign of ? But even in Spain
so highly was Eng. wool regarded that statutes
were drawn up forbidding the clothiers of Barcelona

26p230m34-26

Now have only to ask for the book you want, or help
yourself to the works preference lining the walls of
the pleasant, well-arranged reading-room. ...
In the winter time, it is open every evening from
seven till ten, & I should like to know where
we could find the same thing in England." -
Bradford. It has a Free Public Library, established
under the recent Act, which contains some
27,000 volumes as against the 100,000 of
Hants, & in addition is well supplied with
the public journals. 9,000 readers, in the
News Room & Reading Rooms, is an ordinary
weekly average, 1,600 of these being women,
that is to say, upwards of 1,500 persons, on
an average, read in these rooms in the
course of a single day; besides this, some
5,000 borrowers take books to their homes.
This is in the Central Department alone; &
there are some half-dozen branches for the
convenience of people who live at a distance,
each with its own stock of books & reading-room.
These numbers very fairly represent the
'reading public' among the labouring classes,
for the gentlemen read in their various Clubs,
a Church Institute & a Mechanics' Institute
have each their libraries & reading rooms, & there
is also a capital subscription library with
nearly 90,000 volumes. In

the face of such facts as these it is hardly
fair to say that the English people is not
provided with or does not appreciate intellectual
entertainment, or that he has no pleasant
capital to the most
dislike to spend his long evenings. Local efforts
are made to meet the wants of the working man very fully, & the
man appears to be in no respect worse off than his more comfortable
class, or the more leisure, more money, & more personal comfort. The
educated classes, on the contrary, suffer in a provincial town
where their intellectual resource becomes a mere question of demand